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**BUREAU FOR DEMOCRACY, CONFLICT, AND HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE (DCHA)  
OFFICE OF U.S. FOREIGN DISASTER ASSISTANCE (OFDA)**

## ***Georgia – Complex Emergency***

Fact Sheet #5, Fiscal Year (FY) 2008

August 18, 2008

*Note: The last fact sheet was dated August 17, 2008.*

### **KEY DEVELOPMENTS**

- On August 18, the U.N. released a flash appeal for international humanitarian assistance to address emergency needs in Georgia. The appeal calls for more than \$58.5 million to meet emergency needs of 128,700 beneficiaries for up to six months. The appeal addresses needs within Georgia; to date, the Government of the Russian Federation (GoRF) has not requested international humanitarian assistance.
- To date, the U.S. government (USG) has provided more than \$8.2 million in humanitarian assistance for the ongoing complex emergency in Georgia. The total includes more than \$2.8 million in Department of State emergency relief commodities, which are being airlifted to Georgia on regular flights by the U.S. European Command (EUCOM); nearly \$1.7 million from USAID/OFDA for emergency relief supplies and emergency food commodities; and approximately \$3.7 from EUCOM for U.S. Department of Defense (DOD) emergency commodities and transportation of USG emergency relief supplies.
- International media reports vary on the extent and locations of Russia's pledged withdrawal of armed forces from Georgia. Media has cited various reports that the Russian military is moving additional materiel into South Ossetia.

<b>NUMBERS AT A GLANCE</b>		<b>SOURCE</b>
<b>Newly Displaced Persons in Georgia</b>	128,703	U.N. Georgia Flash Appeal - August 18, 2008
<b>Newly Displaced Persons in Russia</b>	30,000	U.N. Georgia Flash Appeal - August 18, 2008

### **FY 2008 HUMANITARIAN FUNDING PROVIDED TO DATE**

USAID/OFDA Assistance to Georgia.....	\$1,696,396
State/EUR/ACE Assistance to Georgia.....	\$2,844,581
DOD Assistance to Georgia .....	\$3,735,025
<b>Total USAID, State, and DOD Humanitarian Assistance to Georgia.....</b>	<b>\$8,276,002</b>

### **CURRENT SITUATION**

#### ***Displacement***

- The August 18 U.N. Georgia Crisis Flash Appeal noted that approximately 128,000 people have been internally displaced within Georgia since the current conflict began, including 30,000 newly displaced persons within Southern Ossetia and 98,700 people within the rest of Georgia. An additional 30,000 are estimated to have fled to the Russian Federation. In total, the U.N. estimates that nearly 160,000 have been displaced.
- According to media reports on August 18, approximately 15,000 newly displaced persons in western areas of Georgia are inaccessible to current relief operations, due to insecurity and restricted access on major transportation routes. U.N. agencies and relief organizations continue to urge all parties to the conflict to allow unrestricted humanitarian access to displaced and other conflict-affected communities in Georgia.

#### ***Priority Needs***

- An unpredictable security situation and roadblocks on major transit routes continue to prevent detailed assessments. However, the USAID/OFDA Disaster Assistance Response Team (DART) and USAID/Georgia note that prepared food, hygiene kits, and shelter and bedding material are priority needs for displaced populations, as of August 17.
- The USAID DART is coordinating with USAID/Georgia, EUCOM, and the U.S. Department of State to prioritize the shipment and distribution of critical commodities. As of August 18, the USG is planning to continue regular airlifts of emergency relief supplies, including humanitarian daily rations, meals-ready-to-eat (MREs), hygiene kits, and additional shelter and bedding material to Tbilisi through late August. The USAID DART continues to evaluate humanitarian priorities in order to inform ongoing USG relief efforts in Georgia.

### **Health**

- As of August 17, emergency health activities have focused primarily on provision of medical care of the injured. To date, there have been no reports of outbreaks of communicable diseases. In the August 18 emergency appeal, the U.N. noted that inconsistent access to safe water, sanitation, and shelter pose serious health risks to conflict-affected Georgians.
- Humanitarian responders are concerned that the proliferation of internally displaced persons (IDP) collective centers, with numerous people living in close proximity, could pose health risks. In response, USAID/Georgia has funded a local non-governmental organization (NGO) to support health activities in six IDP collective centers in Tbilisi. The health activities, which will include staffing one nurse and one psychologist, will provide basic medical and psycho-social support to residents of the six centers on a daily basis.

### **Emergency Relief Supplies**

- Two EUCOM flights arrived in Tbilisi on August 18, delivering 10,500 meals ready-to-eat (MREs) for conflict-affected Georgians without access to cooking facilities.
- On August 18, an additional EUCOM flight arrived in Tbilisi, delivering more than 2,200 hygiene kits, valued at more than \$20,000 from the USAID/OFDA warehouse in Pisa, Italy. Each kit will support a family of five people with basic hygienic commodities for up to two weeks.

### **Emergency Food Assistance**

- USAID/Georgia and the USAID DART are coordinating the consignment and distribution of 19,600 MREs, including 9,100 MREs from Poti port and 10,500 MREs in Tbilisi, with the Government of Georgia (GoG) and NGO partners. The GoG will reportedly begin food distributions in Gori and surrounding areas, including Kaspi, Kareli, and Khasuri.
- The U.N. World Food Program (WFP) has begun regular humanitarian convoys into Gori and surrounding villages to deliver food rations to conflict-affected Georgians. On August 18, WFP provided food assistance in the village of Arteni, where an estimated 10,000 residents of Gori have taken refuge.
- As of August 18, the GoG, WFP, and relief agencies have provided emergency food and additional assistance to approximately 68,000 people, according to the U.N. Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA). Food assistance has included flour, oil, sugar, beans, salt, high-energy biscuits, and baked bread.

### **USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE**

- On August 9, U.S. Ambassador John F. Tefft declared a disaster due to the effects of armed conflict in Georgia. In response, USAID/OFDA provided an initial \$250,000 through the U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi for the provision of emergency relief supplies to benefit up to 10,000 people. The U.S. Embassy in Tbilisi released U.S. Department of State pre-positioned disaster packages, including medical supplies, tents, blankets, bedding, hygiene items, and clothing valued at \$1.2 million.
- On August 12, EUCOM began airlifting U.S. Department of State, Office of the Coordinator of U.S. Assistance to Europe and Eurasia (State/EUR/ACE)-provided relief and medical supplies to Tbilisi. As of August 18, 10 flights carrying relief, shelter, and medical commodities have arrived in Tbilisi. These commodities are valued at more than \$1.6 million. On August 18, EUCOM also began airlifting USAID/OFDA emergency relief commodities, including hygiene kits, from USAID/OFDA's warehouse in Pisa, Italy. To date, one flight has arrived in Tbilisi, with additional flights scheduled for the coming days. The total value of EUCOM's assistance, including DOD emergency relief supplies, is more than \$3.7 million.
- On August 13, the enhanced USAID/OFDA regional team for Europe, the Middle East, and Central Asia transitioned to a Response Management Team based in Washington D.C. to coordinate USG humanitarian response efforts, identify priority needs, and program additional emergency assistance.
- On August 14, USAID/OFDA in collaboration with USAID Office of Food for Peace provided \$1 million to WFP for the procurement of 653.5 MT of emergency food commodities for populations affected by the ongoing emergency.
- On August 15, the USAID DART arrived in Tbilisi to conduct humanitarian needs assessments, coordinate with the GoG and relief agencies, and inform further USAID assistance priorities. USAID/OFDA continues to work closely with the U.S. Department of State, U.S. Department of Defense, and humanitarian agencies on the ground to coordinate relief activities.

**USAID AND STATE HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA**

<b>Implementing Partner</b>	<b>Activity</b>	<b>Location</b>	<b>Amount</b>
<b>USAID/OFDA ASSISTANCE<sup>1</sup></b>			
USAID/Georgia	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi, Marneuli, Dmanisi, Bolnisi, Khashuri, Borjomi, Akhaltsikhe	\$250,000
WFP	653.40 metric tons (MT) of Emergency Food Commodities	Countrywide	\$1,000,000
Logistics	Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$265,370
	Administration and DART Support		\$181,026
<b>TOTAL USAID/OFDA</b>			<b>\$1,696,396</b>
<b>STATE/EUR/ACE ASSISTANCE<sup>2</sup></b>			
Multiple	Emergency Relief and Medical Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,844,581
<b>TOTAL STATE/EUR/ACE</b>			<b>\$2,844,581</b>
<b>DOD ASSISTANCE</b>			
	Food and Emergency Relief Supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$843,530
	Transportation of USG emergency relief supplies	Tbilisi and Affected Areas	\$2,891,495
<b>TOTAL DOD</b>			<b>\$3,735,025</b>
<b>TOTAL USAID, STATE, AND DOD HUMANITARIAN ASSISTANCE TO GEORGIA IN FY 2008</b>			<b>\$8,276,002</b>

<sup>1</sup> USAID/OFDA funding represents anticipated or actual obligated amounts as of August 18, 2008.

<sup>2</sup> State/EUR/ACE has facilitated the provision of emergency relief supplies to non-governmental organizations for distribution in cooperation with the GoG Ministry of Refugees and Accommodation. The funding amounts represent the approximate value of relief commodities; the costs of transportation of the commodities by U.S. European Command military flights is reflected in the DOD Assistance section.

**PUBLIC DONATION INFORMATION**

- The most effective way people can assist relief efforts is by making cash contributions to humanitarian organizations that are conducting relief operations. Information on organizations responding to the humanitarian situation in Georgia may be available at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int).
- USAID encourages cash donations because they allow aid professionals to procure the exact items needed (often in the affected region); reduce the burden on scarce resources (such as transportation routes, staff time, warehouse space, etc); can be transferred very quickly and without transportation costs; support the economy of the disaster-stricken region; and ensure culturally, dietary, and environmentally appropriate assistance.
- More information can be found at:
  - USAID: [www.usaid.gov](http://www.usaid.gov) – Keyword: Donations
  - The Center for International Disaster Information: [www.cidi.org](http://www.cidi.org) or (703) 276-1914
  - Information on relief activities of the humanitarian community can be found at [www.reliefweb.int](http://www.reliefweb.int)

USAID/OFDA bulletins appear on the USAID web site at [http://www.usaid.gov/our\\_work/humanitarian\\_assistance/disaster\\_assistance/](http://www.usaid.gov/our_work/humanitarian_assistance/disaster_assistance/)